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REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-24 were pending and considered by the Examiner. Claims 4-7, 11, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 23 stand objected to but have been found to contain allowable subject matter, and claims 1-3, 8-10, 12, 13, 16-19, 22 and 24 stand rejected. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23 and 24 have been amended. Claims 1-24 remain pending in the subject application.

Claims 4, 11, 14, 20 and 23 have been found to contain allowable subject matter and have been rewritten into independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, thereby putting these claims into condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 9-10, 12-13, 16-19, 22 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fox et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,010,441). Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Fox et al. These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

Without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by Fox et al., claims 1, 17 and 24 have been amended to more clearly recite what it is the applicants regard as the invention. More specifically, claims 1, 17 and 24 have been amended to recite that the tips of the filaments are positioned in spaced relation to the associated moving component so as to not contact the moving component. Contrary to this claimed limitation, Fox et al. teach that the fibers 108 periodically contact the plate 77 (see, e.g., col. 6, lines 17-22, 31-40 and 50-52). Thus, claims 1, 17 and 24 are not anticipated by and are patentable over Fox et al., taken alone or in combination with the other art of record.

The remaining dependent claims depend from one of claims 1, 4, 14, 17 and 20, and, therefore, are allowable for at least the same reasons applied thereto, as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

The undersigned notes that the Examiner apparently has not considered the foreign references properly cited in the IDS's submitted in the subject application. It is respectfully

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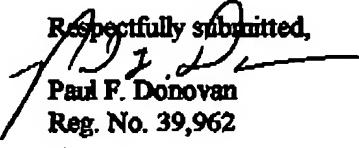
requested that the Examiner properly consider these foreign references and so indicate in the file wrapper of this application. A translation of the foreign references is not required. The references should be considered in view of the drawings and/or any accompanying English language abstracts or claims for what they may convey to one of ordinary skill in the art. The undersigned's only understanding of these foreign references pertains to the same.

In addition, it is noted that another IDS is being submitted with this communication, citing U.S. Patent No. 5,690,014.

No new matter has been added by way of the amendments and remarks made herein. Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested. In the event that there are any issues that can be expeditiously handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,


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